

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

AID-20 IO-12 RSR-01 /115 W
----- 003217

R 231530 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4012
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMCONSUL RECIFE
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, BR

SUBJECT: CENSORSHIP OF O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO

1. DURING LAST TWO WEEKS, FEDERAL CENSORS HAVE CUT AT LEAST SIX ARTICLES OUT OF O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO AND ITS AFTERNOON AFFILIATE, JORNAL DA TARDE. SPACE WAS FILLED WITH EITHER MISCELLANEOUS LEGAL NOTICES, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, OR RECIPES FOR, E. G., STROGANOFF SANDWICHES, MAXI- HAMBURGERS, AND ORANGE CAKE. HENCE, CENSOR'S ACTION WAS BLATENTLY APPARENT TO READERS, BUT STILL JULIO MESQUITA, PUBLISHER OF O ESTADO, SENT TELEGRAMS TO ALL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO MAKE THE POINT EXPLICIT. THIS LED TO SEVERAL SPEECHES IN CONGRESS ATTACKING CENSORSHIP. ALSO, O ESTADO PUBLISHED NOTICE TO READERS THAT THOSE INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHY IRRELEVANT MATERIAL WAS APPEARING IN PLACE OF SUBSTANTIVE NEWS COULD TELEPHONE THE PAPER FOR AN EXPLANATION. CENSORS WOULD HAVE PROHIBITED AN EXPLANATION IN PAPER ITSELF. IN RESPONSE TO NOTICE, O ESTADO RECEIVED 167 TELEPHONE INQUIRIES ON THE FIRST DAY, A NUMBER JULIO MESQUITA CONSIDERED ENCOURAGINGLY HIGH.

2. NEWS ITEMS BARRED BY CENSORS HAVE VARIED FROM AN ARTICLE ON THE SUCCESSION ISSUE TO SPEECHES IN FEDERAL CHAMBER EULOGIZ-
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ING RUI BARBOSA ON THE 50 TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH. IN BRAZILIAN HISTORY, BARBOSA STANDS FOR CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT AND RESPECT FOR LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. LATEST FLURRY IN CENSORSHIP DISPUTE WITH O ESTADO CAUSED SOME OBSERVERS TO SPECULATE THAT CENSORS WERE AGAIN TIGHTENING SCREWS ON O ESTADO AND JORNAL DA TARDE. HOWEVER, IN CONVERSATION WITH CONSUL GENERAL AND DCM, JULIO MESQUITA SAID THAT STRONG PRESSURE HE WAS APPLYING ON GOVERNMENT TO RELAX CENSORSHIP WAS HAVING SOME EFFECT. HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO PRINT A NUMBER OF EDITORIALS AND STORIES, INCLUDING ONE ON SUCCESSION AND ANOTHER ON CENSORSHIP, WHICH PREVIOUSLY MIGHT NOT HAVE PASSED. WHAT WAS ALLOWED AND DISALLOWED, HE SAID, OFTEN DEPENDED ON THE WHIM OF INDIVIDUAL CENSORS ASSIGNED TO PAPERS; CONSEQUENTLY, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DISCERN POLICY SHIFTS. JULIO SAID HE INTENDED TO KEEP PRESSING THE GOVERNMENT ON THE CENSORSHIP QUESTION. CHAPIN

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